

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Juvenile Justice

**Policy
Number**

A-92

Page

1 of 4

Purpose

To establish the basic principles for the development and maintenance of a comprehensive juvenile justice services within the framework of the Board of Supervisors' policies on children and prevention and the juvenile court law.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

1. The mission of juvenile justice programs is to provide that level of service required in individual cases to protect the public and to best serve the needs of each delinquent child in the least restrictive environment.
2. Juvenile justice programs will be targeted at the youths who are involved in delinquent behavior that has resulted, or could result in a formal referral to Probation or the District Attorney.
3. Plans for juvenile justice programs will be developed and implemented based on the following principles:
 - a. Clear goals and measurable objectives.
 - b. Provision of services by both the public and private sector whichever is most efficient and effective.
 - c. Coordination of service delivery and program development to best meet the demonstrated needs of the target population.
 - d. Citizen participation through advisory groups.
 - e. Periodic review and evaluation as resources permit.
 - f. Delineation of specific areas of service delivery responsibility for each department or program in coordination with others.
 - g. Encourage the development of new programs which have demonstrated effectiveness in rehabilitating juvenile offenders; eliminating or changing programs which have proven to be ineffective.
4. The principles which underlie the decisions made in the juvenile justice area and the goals of services to be provided to delinquent youths are:
 - a. To protect the public from the criminal conduct of minors.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Juvenile Justice

**Policy
Number**

A-92

Page

2 of 4

Remove from the community those minors who are a clear or persistent danger to the person or property of others.

Monitor compliance with court orders to assure that the minor is adhering to conditions imposed by the court.

Provide intensive supervision and/or specific programming for those high-risk offenders who are retained in community settings (which are designed to monitor behavior and respond swiftly to further criminal activity, as well as to reduce future criminal behavior as evidenced by low recidivism rates for the program).

Provide program opportunities for delinquent youth which may enhance individual adjustment and socialization and prevent further delinquency through substitution of positive behavior.

Refer to the adult criminal court those minors who are unfit to be handled as juvenile offenders in order that they may be prosecuted under the general law.

Utilize programs which demonstrate a high degree of success in deterring juveniles from further criminal behavior.

b. To impose a sense of responsibility for his/her own acts upon the delinquent child.

Impose gradual and predictable penalties for continued delinquent behavior. The graduated penalties should be selected for program and cost-effectiveness and with the intent of meeting the legislative mandates of public protection and rehabilitation in the least restrictive environment.

Maintain programs which provide redress for victims, payment to the General Fund or public service for the community.

Develop clear rules and regulations for juveniles who are institutionalized with clear penalties and fair equitable means for imposition.

c. To secure, for each youth, that level of service which is the least restrictive and least disruptive to the child and family which is consistent with public safety.

Maintain youth in his/her own home insofar as possible.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Juvenile Justice

**Policy
Number**

A-92

Page

3 of 4

Divert youth from the formal court process in those cases where the criminal act, past history, family and community resources available indicate that the risk is reasonable and corrective action likely without further intervention.

Select community-based programs and informal intervention as first choice options where consistent with public safety.

Utilize the most home-like setting available which will provide the required level of service. Utilize family resources, or foster care in preference to institutionalization.

Provide a variety of sentencing options which offer graduated penalties for repeated delinquency.

Select the shortest term for service delivery consistent with the child's needs and public safety.

d. To preserve and strengthen the minor's family and community ties.

Remove from custody of the parents only when necessary for the welfare of the child or protection of the public.

Provide supportive services-to families.

Use San Diego based programs whenever feasible in preference to out-of-County placements.

e. To provide such care and guidance to each delinquent child as will best serve his/her emotional, spiritual and physical welfare and, as nearly as possible, the level of care and discipline which should be provided by a natural parent.

Provide the vehicles for individual self-improvement to those minors who are motivated to alter their behavior such as: referrals for special service needs; education, academic and vocation; counseling; work and service opportunities; recreation and physical conditioning.

Maintain up-to-date information on new programs found to be effective in rehabilitating various types of youth and use or develop such programs in San Diego.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Juvenile Justice

**Policy
Number**

A-92

Page

4 of 4

Provide safe institutional environments with consistent rules for behavior and fair and reasonable consequences for misbehavior.

Provide opportunities for free practice of religious beliefs.

Provide sound and adequate nutritional programs.

Provide opportunity for healthful physical activities.

Provide adequate medical and mental health support services to meet the needs of the institutionalized child.

f. To provide programs which serve to rehabilitate the minor, as evidenced by low recidivism rates for the program.

To place juveniles in programs which are best calculated to meet the minor's needs, consistent with public safety.

To research, assist in developing and use effective program alternatives.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-12.

Board Action

6-8-82 (137)
12-15-82 (70)
3-3-92 (23)
9-29-92 (36)
6-13-06 (7)

CAO Reference

1. Probation Department